



Sherry Wells Pottery

<http://sherrywellspottery.com>

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My first experience in clay was taking a class from Neil Moss at El Camino College. It didn't take long to realize I would continue to work with clay throughout my life. That has been true since then, including opportunities to teach at local schools and as an instructor at community art centers and Flathead Valley Community College.

At the end of 1997, I began work at Whitefish Pottery as their production potter, throwing commercial utilitarian ware. I worked there from October 1997 to August, 2000. This improved my throwing skills and at the same time made me very tired of both perfectly round pottery and repetition. Subsequently, I saw a rapid growth and change in my own work. While at Whitefish Pottery, I helped build an anagama kiln and continue to participate in its annual firing.

In November 2000 I bought a house and pottery in Kalispell. The pottery has a 30 cu. ft. Bourry box wood kiln, a 36 cu. ft. sprung arch gas kiln and a now, a raku kiln. I was part of the firing team for this wood kiln for 3 years prior to my buying the place. I have had to rebuild it numerous times due to flaws in the design. This is now being fired twice a year!

Currently, I make altered functional ware from porcelain and white stoneware. I create my pieces by first throwing a form on the potter's wheel, then altering and shaping it, folding and cutting it, while the clay when still pliable. I offer individual and small group lessons and workshops, as well as selling my ware out of my studio and through galleries.